ASBESTOS

Vol. 5 JUNE 1924 No. 12

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... ASBESTOS ...

A MONTHLY MARKET JOURNAL

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ASBESTOS AND MAGNESIA INDUSTRIES

A. S. ROSSITER EDITOR

PUBLISHING OFFICE

246 NORTH 17th STREET

PHILADELPHIA, - PENNSYLVANIA

Entered As Second Class Matter November 23, 1923. at the Post Office at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Under Act of March 3, 1879

Volume V JUNE 1924 Number 12

CONTENTS

	Page
Plastic Magnesia Cements	5
Results of Contest	12
The United States Asbestos Company	14
Asbestos Dryer Felt	19
Contractors and Distributors Page	21
Editorials:	
A Cuban Asbestos Legend	24
More Automobile Statistics	24
Time For Tool Sharpening	25
Market Conditions	28
Paper and Millboard Standards	32
Superstitions	32
A New Insulating Material	35
Imports and Exports of Asbestos	36
Production Statistics	40
News of the Industry	41

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

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THE ZULU WITCH DOCTOR

In Zululand (Africa) the Witch Doctor, whose "muti" (medicine) is carried in goats' horns and other less choice receptacles suspended from his neck, has asbestos in his pharmacopeia.

He is independent of market fluctuations, strikes on mines, etc., as he procures his supplies "on his own" from deposits known to him.

We are aware that asbestos is used—we trust with all discretion—by the white man in baking powder, and we hope that in the weird decoctions inflicted on the native people by the witch doctor, the proportion of fibre is infinitesimal.

Photo by Courtesy of R. A. Barton

Plastic Magnesia Cements

By Albert P. Sachs, *Technical Director*

Universal Trade Press Syndicate

Sorel in 1867 discovered that a solution of magnesium chloride acts on magnesium oxide (calcined magnesia) to produce a cement of very great strength and very high binding power. This latter property, high binding, allows the dilution or "filling" of the cement with various inert materials such as wood flour, saw dust, sand, etc., yielding a satisfactory composition on hardening. Mixtures with less than 5% magnesia may be strong and serviceable. The power of binding sawdust was not possessed by any cement known at that time, so that possibilities for the use of the new cement were immediately recognized and within a few years the construction of composition floors containing Sorel's oxychloride cement, composed of wood flour plus sawdust and cemented by magnesia and magnesium chloride became quite common in Germany and France and later in this country.

The real possibilities of this most excellent composition have not been fully realized either here or abroad because of the specially selected raw materials necessary and the skilled workmanship required. Nevertheless, composition floorings are sufficiently common as to be considered a standard building practice and the knowledge which has been developed in recent years regarding the causes of previous failures and adequate testing methods has made it certain that magnesium oxychloride floorings, stuccos and artificial stones will increase in popularity and usefulness.

Chemically, the nature of Sorel or oxychloride cement as it is frequently called, has not been established with absolute certainty, but it is believed to be a hydrated basic magnesium oxychloride—$3Mg\ O.\ Mg\ Cl_2.\ 10\ H_2\ O$. The technical product is undoubtedly a mixture of solid solution of this substance with various others.

The raw materials for an oxychloride composition are magnesia, magnesium chloride, filler or aggregate. As the raw materials must be of a satisfactory nature they will be considered in turn.

Magnesia or magnesium oxide may theoretically be obtained from various sources but commercially it is obtained by calcining magnesite. Calcination is carried out in shaft or rotary furnaces up to 1100°C. and consists essentially in driving off carbon dioxide from magnesite. The chemical equation for this change is $MgCO_3 — MgO + CO_2$. The calcined magnesite is frequently called plastic calcined magnesite and is a magnesia still containing a little carbon dioxide and varying percentages of impurities. If the temperature of calcination is too high, it becomes partially or completely dead burned, which consists in transforming the amorphous magnesia to crystalline magnesia or periclase which is useless in cements altho it is satisfactory for refractories. The original magnesite should be as pure and white as possible. If the magnesite contains much lime it is always possible that the calcination process will produce "active" lime which ruins the oxychloride cement, altho it is possible by careful calcining to use even high lime magnesites (dolomitic magnesites) successfully. The lime, originally present as calite, on careful burning remains as such and acts merely as a filler. However, pure magnesite which is easily available from Greece, Washington, California, or Venezuela is generally used. Iron is objectionable only because of its color. A normal commercial product (calcined magnesia) will run

75 to 85% Magnesia
5 to 10% carbon dioxide and moisture
5 to 7% silica
3 to 6% lime
1 to 22% iron dioxide.

The magnesium chloride employed to make the solutions is a solid or granular material having the formula $MgCl_2 . 6H_2O$ and should be as pure as possible. All the commercial impurities, such as common salt, calcium chloride and magnesium sulfate are detrimental to varying degrees. A good commercial product should have a maximum of 2% impurities, preferably 1% or less. Magnesium chloride was formerly obtained in large quantities only as a by-product in the refining of the potash salts from the beds at Stassfurt, Germany, but is now obtained from certain Michigan brines in this country.

The fillers and aggregates are many. The organic materials are sawdust, wood flour, ground linoleum waste,

Carey

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leather powder, cork dust, cotton linters, etc. The mineral materials are sand, silex (ground sand) pumice, chalk, asbestos, ground marble, powdered glass, etc. In general the fillers should be ground extremely fine to obtain a composition of maximum strength.

In making oxychloride cements the primary object, of course, is to produce a sound, strong and permanent cement. Chemical or physical tests of the raw materials have a certain value, but the best test obviously is to make a test batch from the materials available of known satisfactory quality with the sample to be tested and then to subject the resultant cement to performance tests. Or the finished cement may be tested by standard laboratory methods to show strength, volume change, setting time and permanence. Details of such tests are described in the publications of the American Society for Testing Materials and other technical journals. For the individual small purchaser the guarantee of a reliable seller is the best guide.

It is true with oxychloride cements as with portland cements that the weakest parts of the set mass are the cement particles. It is therefore most desirable to thoroly disseminate the fillers and to prevent formation of large particles of cement. This is obviously best accomplished by having both the calcined magnesia and the fillers as fine as possible. The magnesite should be ground to 200 mesh if possible. A specification of 97% to pass 100 mesh and 85% to pass 200 mesh is satisfactory and easily attainable. The fillers should also be extremely fine. For certain purposes coarser aggregates are permissible.

The magnesium chloride is used in solution. Too weak a solution makes a weak cement, too strong a solution causes undue expansion effects. A solution of 22 degrees Beaume is the optimum. The amount of solution used is generally that which makes a suitable consistency, but a more rational method is to use 75 to 85% (of the weight of the magnesia) of solid magnesium chloride dissolved in enough water to make the density 20°, 22° or 24° Beaume as may be desired. The actual percentage of solution of magnesium chloride necessary for any mix is determined by experiment. The amount of water necessary to produce a solution of a given Beaume degree with a given amount of the chloride is taken from tables or is determined experimentally once and for all time.

HIGH GRADE ASBESTOS TEXTILES

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Braided Tubings
Woven Sheet Packings
Woven Brake Linings
Gloves, Mittens, Leggins
Gaskets, Seamless and Jointed
Packings, Stem and High Pressure
Wick and Rope

Asbestos Fibre Spinning Company

North Wales, Penna.

The cement should not show initial set for one or two hours. This is to enable the necessary work to be done such as laying out, smoothing, etc., for floors, and dashing pebbles for stucco. The final set should not require more than seven or eight hours, altho in certain cases floorings are laid with a longer final set.

Oxychloride cement products may be classified as artificial wood or artificial stone. The former class contains large quantities of sawdust and similar materials and may when of suitable composition. be sawed, nailed and otherwise machined like wood. The artificial stones contain large quantities of mineral fillers.

The great advantages of composition floors are that they are hygienically seamless and fireproof, are sound-deadening, good heat insulators and have a soft mellow tint. They are very desirable for homes and offices, factories, laboratories and hospitals. Considerable skill is required in laying a floor. The sawdust should be soaked in water before mixing to prevent its absorbing the magnesium chloride solution. A suitable base is necessary and may be of concrete or wood but should not be too smooth. A composition flooring is excellent to cover an old floor, but nails should be driven into the wood and the heads left projecting a little to give the cement a firm hold. Frequently a finishing layer is put on the flooring. A suitable composition for flooring is:

Calcined magnesia 100 lbs.

Sawdust 55 lbs. (dry) sufficiently moistened

Magnesium chloride 75 lbs. dissolved in water to make a 24° Beaume solution (about 25 lbs. or 3 gallons of water are needed).

This is properly mixed by hand or machine and applied to the base of concrete or wood. A thin surface layer, containing cork and Kieselguhr or asbestos and stone powder, depending on whether a "soft" or "hard" surface is desired is applied the next day.

The above material can also be made into boards or blocks by suitably moulding, pressing and drying. There are many formulae for all these materials, a considerable collection of which may be found in K. Muller's Praktische Anleitung fur Steinholzarbeiten, published by the author at Gommern in 1908.

A synthetic "stone," for a hard seamless floor is made from.

Ground Sand 120 mesh	200 lbs.
Calcined magnesia	100 lbs.
Coarse Sand	500 lbs.
Magnesium chloride	75 lbs. dissolved in water

to make a 24° Beaume solution.

Magnesia is also used to make artificial stones and hydraulic cements differing entirely from the oxychloride cement in nature. Thus it is possible to make an excellent imitation marble especially suitable for small special shapes by mixing calcined magnesia and finest precipitated chalk with water, to a paste, filling into molds and protecting from water until hardening occurs, and then placing in water to complete the hardening.

A. Vournazos in 1921 described a new type of hydraulic magnesian cement made from calcined magnesia and amorphous silica in a suitable ratio. The amorphous silica is provided as ground pumice or volcanic ash. The mixture with water sets in 48 hours in the air or in 90 hours under water and hardening continues for more than a year. The product attacks iron less than does Portland cement and as its coeffcient of expansion is almost the same as that of iron it is well suited for reinforced concrete. If mixed with quartz sand, a pure white imitation marble can be made.

Results of Contest

"Queer Experiences of an Asbestos Salesman"

It is with pleasure that we announce the award of the $20.00 prize, offered for the best article on the above subject, to Mr. J. H. BROWN, Salesman, Keasbey & Mattison Company, Minneapolis, Minn. Mr. Brown's article was very well written and interesting. It will be published in the July number of "ASBESTOS."

An article submitted by Mr. L. B. SCOTT, Salesman, Consolidated Asbestos Limited, Montreal, stood second place, was accepted for publication, and Mr. Scott was awarded the $5.00 prize. Mr. Scott's article will also appear in an early issue.

Our only regret is that more asbestos salesmen did not compete for this prize, only four manuscripts being submitted.

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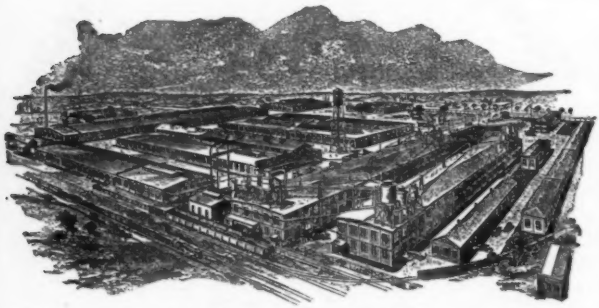

The United States Asbestos Co.

From a small plant containing but a few hundred square feet of floor space, to a group of buildings covering five acres; from a capital stock of $35,000 to one of $1,200,000; from the manufacture of commercial asbestos yarns and fine tapes on a small scale to the production in enormous quantities of every kind of asbestos textile known to man; such is the record of the United States Asbestos Company, founded eighteen years ago.

When taken step by step the growth of this company may not seem spectacular, but it is evident that the company builded on a sure foundation, that each succeeding brick was laid with care. The result is a firm classed with the largest of asbestos manufacturers today, even tho most of the larger asbestos firms have been in existence for a longer period.

It was in 1906 that Chester L. Hill, who had for a number of years been connected with the asbestos textile plant of the Keasbey & Mattison Company, headed a small group of men and organized the United States Asbestos Company. A small plant was secured at Manheim, Penna., about ten miles northwest of the city of Lancaster, and the business was started with a capital, as before stated, of $35,000.

Mr. Hill was made General Manager, and the first president of the company was a Mr. George Danner, a citi-

zen of Manheim. The stock was practically all held by Manheim people.

At first only commercial (asbestos) yarns and fine tapes were manufactured, but the use of asbestos for automobile brake lining having been developed at about the time the company was started, the United States Asbestos Company was among the first to take up the weaving of asbestos tape for brake linings, and as a consequence, the company expanded very rapidly.

S. R. ZIMMERMAN, President
United States Asbestos Company

Within a few years a complete line of asbestos high pressure steam packings, sheet packings and gaskets were added, and the quality of the product and service was rewarded with constantly increasing business.

About 1910, the late R. H. Martin, one of the pioneers

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in the asbestos mining and manufacturing business in the United States, formed a syndicate consisting of himself and other men already interested in asbestos in Canada and England, and purchased the entire stock holdings of the company.

With the larger resources available, very much more rapid expansion of the plant occurred. A definite, comprehensive plan for a complete textile plant, having probably the largest capacity for the manufacture of all kinds of asbestos textiles in the most economical and effective way, was formulated. Enormous brick and steel buildings were erected, which have been added to from time to time as the company took on the manufacture of new lines of asbestos textiles. Equipment of the most modern and most efficient type was installed. Much special machinery, designed for and used in this mill only, is a part of the equipment, and the plant today has an output of several million pounds per year.

In 1910, S. R. Zimmerman, a prominent lawyer of Lancaster, was elected president of the company, which position he has held continuously since.

In 1917, Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Hill purchased the entire stock holdings from Mr. Martin and his associates, Mr. Hill continuing as general manager, and becoming vice president, until 1920 when he retired from active connection with the company.

The most recent addition to the equipment of the company is the machinery used by the Waite-Wild plant at Framingham, Mass., the trade of the Waite-Wild Company having been absorbed by the United States Asbestos Company, and Mr. R. Wild becoming sales manager. An additional building was assigned to the blue mattress and insulation department, formerly a part of the Waite-Wild operations.

To still further complete their line of blue asbestos textiles, an alliance has recently been made with the Cape Asbestos Company of London, England, whereby the United States Asbestos Company is at present selling specialties in asbestos developed by the Cape Asbestos Company and will shortly manufacture such specialties in its own plant at Manheim.

The present officers of the United States Asbestos Com-

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pany are: S. R. Zimmerman, president; H. M. Green, vice president; W. R. Haggart, vice president; George R. Weber, treasurer; John A. Coyle, secretary; S. R. Slaymaker, chairman of the board; R. Wild, mill sales manager; Aug. Fleck, assistant to sales manager; George Righter, general sales manager of the Eastern District and Export Department; R. B. Montgomery, looking after sales in the Pittsburgh district; George L. Hammons, president and general manager of the U. S. Asbestos Company of Illinois, an allied company marketing U. S. Asbestos Company products in the middle west; George R. Keith, sales manager automotive equipment products, San Francisco, Calif.

Large offices, sales organizations and warehouses are operated by the United States Asbestos Company at 131 Liberty street, New York City; 617 Washington Boulevard, Chicago; First National Bank Bldg., Pittsburgh, and 661 Turk street, San Francisco. The export offices of the company are at 131 Liberty street, New York, and foreign connections are had in most of the active foreign markets.

Asbestos Dryer Felt

One of our good friends calls attention to an interesting article in the April issue of "Paper," concerning asbestos dryer felt.

Dryer felt is used in the making, or rather the drying, of paper. Due to the heat of the drying cylinders and the necessity for the felt to be constantly in a moist state, it is difficult to obtain a felt which will last any great length of time.

Previously the felts have been made of wool or cotton, the European manufacturers using woolen to a great extent, while the American manufacturers seem to prefer the cotton (canvas). Woolen felts have been found to last much longer than cotton ones, and it is said that the asbestos felts are giving from 50 to 100% more service than woolen.

The asbestos dryer felt consists of an asbestos face with a backing of hard twisted, loosely woven cotton yarn. The cotton back takes up the pull and is protected by the insulating asbestos layer, from the heat of the cylinder.

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Contractors and Distributors Page

Wages Paid Asbestos Workers in Various Cities

	Wage per hr. (Mechanics)	Date of present Agreement	Expiration of present Agreement
Baltimore, Md.	$1.00	Jan. 1, 1914	Dec. 31, 1924
Boston, Mass.	1.10	Jan. 19, 1924	Mar. 31, 1925
Buffalo, N. Y.	1.10	(*See Below*)	
Charlotte, N. C.	1.25	Open Shop	
Chicago, Ill.	1.25	Temporary 15 day agreement	
Cincinnati, O.	(1.07½—*Jan. 24 to May 24, 1924*)		
	(1.12½—*May 24 to Sept. 24, 1924*)		
	(1.17½—*Sept. 24, 1924 to Feb. 24, 1925*)		
Cleveland, O.	1.17½	Mar. 1, 1924	Mar. 1, 1927
Des Moines, Ia.	1.00	Open Shop	
Detroit, Mich.	1.12½	Open Shop	
Duluth, Minn.	.80	Open Shop (*See below*)	
Hartford, Conn.	1.10	Jan. 19, 1924	April 1, 1925
Houston, Texas	1.12½	Mar. 3, 1924	Mar. 3, 1925
Indianapolis, Ind.	1.00	May 1, 1924	May 1, 1925 (*See below*)
Kansas City, Mo.	1.00		
Louisville, Ky.	1.00	Oct. 1, 1923	Oct. 1, 1924
Milwaukee, Wis.	.90	New agreement not yet signed	
Nashville, Tenn.	.60 to .87½	Open Shop	
New York City	10.50 (per day)	Jan. 2, 1924	Dec. 31, 1925
Philadelphia, Pa	(.95 *until July 1, 1924*)		
	(1.00 *thereafter until Jan. 1, 1925*)		
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1.12½	(*See below*)	June 1, 1925
Providence, R. I.	1.10	Apr. 1, 1924	Apr. 1, 1925
Rochester, N. Y.	1.05	(*1.10 after July 1,1924*)	Apr. 30, 1925
St. Louis, Mo.	1.25		
Tulsa, Okla.	1.00		
Washington, D. C.	1.05	Feb. 1, 1924	Feb. 1, 1925

Duluth, Minn., reports that their helpers receive 50c per hour and that they have had very little labor trouble. The men insist on steady work and the employers are able to keep them steadily employed because the men are willing to do roofing as well as pipe covering.

Memphis, Tenn., reports that there is no union of insulation and asbestos workers in Memphis. The open shop method is employed and the men are paid what they are worth.

Indianapolis, Ind., was paying 90c before May 1st, 1924. The men struck for $1.15, and the present rate of $1.00 was finally agreed upon.

Buffalo, N. Y., reports a strike along about the first of May, the workers asking for $1.12½ per hour. At that time they were getting $1.00. A year's agreement was finally reached, granting $1.10 per hour, this to apply to the first six months. At the

end of the six months period the matter of advance to $1.12½ will be taken up.

Pittsburg, Pa., is working under an agreement to pay $1.12½ from June 1st to September 1st, 1924 (the old rate) but from September 1st, 1924 to June 1st, 1925, the rate will be $1.37½. This high rate was agreed to because the Building Trades Council of Pittsburg advocates the same rate of wages for Asbestos Workers as was given plumbers and heating men on March 1st.

We will endeavor to keep our readers informed each month of any changes in wage rates and wish that contractors would make it a practice to write us when a strike occurs, a new agreement is signed, or a new rate adopted.

Contractor's Slogan for June: Experienced Man is the Only Man.

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EDITORIALS

A Cuban Asbestos Legend.

We have just stumbled on a legend concerning asbestos, and this time the Amphibole variety, told in Cuba among the slaves probably a century ago.

It is said that these Cuban slaves,years before asbestos was known commercially, knew and spoke of a material "something like stone that did not burn." They held it in awe, believing that "because it did not burn it must come from hell."

Recently the descendant of the owner of the estate on which the slaves were employed, a Mr. Barrie, being somewhat interested in asbestos, recalled this tale which was told him by his father, and decided to go to the spot and look it over. He found it "laying all around the ground, on top of a stone" that we call "green serpentine."

Later, Mr. Barrie took some men and did a little excavating work, and he reports having found a better grade of fibre, altho they only dug down about 20 feet.

The material, however, of which we have a sample, is of the amphibole type.

More Automobile Statistics.

Each year the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce publishes "Facts and Figures of the Automobile Industry." Advance information from this booklet was published by us last month, but it contains other information almost as interesting which was not included in the advance news sheet.

We find, for instance, that automobiles and parts take second place among the commodity exports of the United States for 1923. Unmanufactured cotton comes first with a value of over 807 millions, automobiles and parts second with a value of almost 165 millions, followed by leaf tobacco, 152 millions, then come gasoline and napthas, lard and substitutes, wheat, coal and coke, etc.

To our surprise we learn that Australia buys more cars from the United States than any other country. During 1923 Australia imported from the United States 25,817 cars, valued at $18,923,471. Canada was second, import-

ing 11,012 cars at a value of $10,272,149. Japan, however, is the largest buyer of trucks from the U. S. A., their 1923 purchase being 5,111 valued at $3,097,570. Belgium came second with 3,963 trucks, valued at $969,726, and Australia third, 2,086 trucks, valued at $2,411,835.

Another table which interested us was the one giving the number of persons per motor vehicle in the various countries. In the United States there is one motor vehicle to each seven persons; Panama, C. Z., has one to every ten persons; Canada, one to every thirteen; Hawaii, one to every fifteen; the United Kingdom, one to every seventy-four; Germany, one to every 453; France, one to every ninety-three; Belgium, one to every 133; Australia, one to every 44.

The automobile industry gives employment to over 2,750,000 workers.

There are estimated to be 18,023,584 motor vehicles in the world, of which 88%, or 15,092,177 are in the United States. Canada has 642,571; the United Kingdom 642,853. These figures include both passenger cars and trucks.

In the United States, New York has the highest registration—1,204,213 in 1923. California comes second with 1,100,283; Ohio third, 1,069,100, and Pennsylvania fourth —1,043,770.

The year 1924 opened up with wonderful promise for the automobile industry, but along about the end of March some moderation was felt and May showed an output of 19% under April. The latest bulletin issued by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, however, is more optimistic, reporting a favorable summer outlook and suggesting that the settlement of the tax question in Congress will probably have a stabilizing and encouraging effect upon trade.

Those interested in the automotive market situation should read the article appearing in June *Industrial Digest*: "Will the Automotive Industry put on the Brakes in Time?" which discusses the present situation and future outlook from the "saturation point" basis.

Time for Tool Sharpening.

An efficiency expert, in talking before a group of automobile men a week or so ago, suggested that during a lull

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in business, such as is being experienced by the automobile trade at the present time, the thing to do is to sharpen up the tools and otherwise get the plant in readiness for good business when the present depression is over.

The asbestos industry along almost every line is feeling the effects of the sudden lull in general business, and it would do well to follow the advice of the efficiency man, and get ready for good business when the lull is over. There are many things to be accomplished in the asbestos industry. Economies in manufacture, elimination of waste, standardization of sizes and of materials, economic mergers —all these are some of the tools which can be sharpened.

Aside from these there are vast opportunities for research. Many times do we hear the assertion that the surface of possibilities for the use of asbestos has hardly been scratched. Those of you with an inventive turn of mind should put in some profitable hours, trying to delve into some of the many hidden secrets of asbestos.

Only the other day someone suggested to us that it should be possible to devise some way to manufacture special shapes of millboard (for use as gaskets, etc.) without first making a large sheet and then cutting out the special shapes desired. The waste material in this instance is enormous; in fact, one buyer of millboard for use in special shapes, tells us that out of fifteen carloads purchased during the year, three to four carloads are thrown away as scrap.

There are other problems which might be solved if a little time and thought were given them. Can we not find time for some of these things and be ready for bigger business when the tide turns?

FORCING THE LUCK

First Golfer—I thought you couldn't turn up this afternoon.
SecondGolfer—It was a very near thing, old chap. I tossed up to see if I should go to the office or come here, and believe me, it took five spins before it came right.

ASBESTOS MANUFACTURING COMPANIES ATTENTION!

For sale or lease— A large and fully developed Chrysotile Asbestos property with immense bodies of finest quality Asbestos in sight. Mill and buildings, tunnels and shaft, with thousands of tons of ore on dumps. For further particulars address **George Lally, care "ASBESTOS."**

MARKET CONDITIONS

The lack of profit from the present large volume of business, which is the real basis of most of the complaints heard in commercial circles, is in part due to the unsettled political situation and in part to high labor costs. But under all this there is the fact that the most pressing demands for materials to make good the neglect of equipment during the war have now been satisfied and the country is settling down to the struggle which will determine how much of the excess production capacity created during the war is really needed to meet the peacetime requirements of the country. Such struggles for the elimination of the "marginal producer," the one who can make a profit only under abnormal conditions, always mean ruthless competition, but the survivors of the struggle find themselves in much stronger positions when the battle is over. The manufacturers who first recognize the existence of this struggle and prepare to defend their positions by perfecting production methods and cutting sales costs stand the best chance of survival.—Industrial Digest.

In these changeful times, it is exceedingly difficult to write intelligently of market conditions, for various things are always cropping up which change the situation and what is true today may be quite different tomorrow.

Business generally is slowing down. The condition of the steel market, the textile industry and the automobile trade are such that business men are hauling in their sails and taking due thought for the future. Those men who make a study of business cycles and other phenomena in the business world, tell us that this very caution and the gradualness of the decline in various lines is encouraging because it is guarantee against a sudden crash.

Perhaps also some of the depressed feeling which exists in the world of business, is attributable to the fact that we are prone to compare the present volume of business with peak times rather than with normal times (if any times can be called normal) and, naturally, such a comparison does not tend to encourage us.

By the end of June we will know what effect the passage of the tax reduction bill will have on trade, and whether the bonus bill is as bad as it is painted; the party conventions will be over and, we hope, the bad weather also, while Congress has already adjourned, which last fact will go far toward relieving the nervous tension of business.

The Asbestos Industry, like all other business is feeling the depressed condition.

The Raw Material Market is, undoubtedly, in bad condition. Manufacturers are curtailing or postponing shipments, demand is not showing any signs of increase; the Belgian patent situation is not improving matters any, prices are low.

Work is still going on steadily, if quietly on the overall or-

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Wick, Rope and Asbestos Specialties

Manufactured directly from the raw materials to the finished product in our own factory.

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LOGAN, PHILADELPHIA

ganization idea, and this may be the salvation of the Asbestos Miners.

Asbestos Textiles.

The Asbestos Textile trade is not saying much, but is steadily working and, we believe, with some results in sight. Some of the packing trade are experiencing a gradual increase in business which they believe will continue thruout the summer, but they readily admit that it takes hard work.

Demand in the Asbestos Brake Lining division continues good, manufacturers reporting that business done this year is running higher than the same period last year. Replacement business also is better than might be expected, and the summer months should increase rather than decrease the demand there.

Asbestos Paper.

The Paper division is experiencing a dull season which can be at least partly accounted for by the regular summer slump in insulation materials.

Insulation.

This, of course, is the dullest season of the year for insulation materials. The middle west is especially inactive. The East, while dull at present, reports future prospects as quite promising.

Asbestos Shingles.

While the manufacturers of Asbestos Shingles report little business, the contractors handling Asbestos Shingles tell us that they have about all the business they can attend to and that the demand for Asbestos shingles in contradistinction to slate, wooden shingles, etc., is growing very nicely.

True, the contractors are working very hard on the shingle line, but it is encouraging to know that their hard work is bringing gratifying results.

In Europe. Our European correspondent tells us that business in England continues to improve and that there is more activity generally this year than last, due largely, he suggests, to expenditure on public utility services, railways and shipping.

The recent improvement in the Continental exchanges, particularly French, has contributed to increased inquiries for English goods, but the subsequent relapse of the franc from 65 to 80 to the pound sterling, is producing a new feeling of uncertainty which hinders operations.

In Italy business is maintained at a splendid level. The demand for blue asbestos filter cloths for the big Chemical Works shows no abatement and the principal difficulty today is to provide the necessary raw material to supply their needs. Generally speaking, Italy, from an industrial point of view, is in a healthier position today than it has been for many years. Everybody seems to be settling down to work in the interests of the country. Food prices continue abnormally high but it seems to be admitted on all sides that the general standard of living was never so high as today.

Paper and Millboard Standards

A meeting was held in Washington, D. C., on Thursday, May 22nd, under the auspices of the Division of Simplified Practice, Department of Commerce, to which were invited both manufacturers and consumers of asbestos paper and millboard.

The purpose of the meeting was to create size and weight standards in the asbestos paper industry, and to eliminate those sizes and weights of paper and millboard for which there was little call.

After full discussion, the meeting recommended that:

a. 36″ paper be considered standard and that this width should be stocked in 100 pound and 50 pound rolls only.
b. 24″ and 18″ width paper should be made only as special items.
c. 25 pound rolls should be made only upon special order.
d. 6 pound, 12 pound and 16 pound paper be eliminated.
e. 40″ x 40″ millboard be eliminated.
f. The standard size of asbestos millboard should be 42″ x 48″.
g. The standard thicknesses of asbestos millboard should be 1/16″, ⅛″, ¼″ and ½″ only.
h. These standards become effective September 1st.

It is believed that the adoption of these recommended standards will result in great economy to the industry.

SUPERSTITIONS

A man once walked under a ladder—and a pot of paint fell on him. Hence, walking under ladders is bad luck.

A small boy spilled the salt—and got spanked. More bad luck.

A Democrat swore to let his beard grow till Bryan was elected—so—presidential elections are bad medicine.

Half the bad business of presidential years comes from unwarranted lack of confidence. Basic prices are *not* low, stocks are small. The business is there for the go-getter. —D. Tulloch.

AMERICAN ASBESTOS COMPANY

Manufacturers of
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Headquarters for Yarns, Cloth, Tapes, Fibres, Brake Linings and Textiles Generally

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Roofing Cements · Fibrous Paints
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Asbestos Paper · Pipe Coverings
Asbestos Millboard
High Temperature Cements

THE QUEBEC ASBESTOS CORPORATION

Office and Mines
EAST BROUGHTON, PROVINCE *of* QUEBEC
CANADA

A New Insulating Material

"Therminsul" is the name of an insulating material which is just being placed on the market on a quantity basis, altho it has been manufactured and sold in a small way for several years.

The material, while containing no asbestos, is given space here because of its interest as a competitive product of asbestos and magnesia insulations. It is a felted mineral wool product, containing but one-third of 1% foreign matter, and is made by the Insulating Products Company of Kalamazoo, Mich. Mr. Emrick, the president of the company, has recently perfected the machine for the manufacture of this product capable of producing 25,000 feet in a day of 10 hours.

The Bureau of Standards has tested "Therminsul", and for its insulating qualities ranks it much higher than either air cell or magnesia. The manufacturers claim that it will stand up indefinitely at a temperature of 1800°F. indirect heat.

Perhaps the greatest appeal of "Therminsul" lies in the fact that it is equally efficient for hot and cold insulation work, thus making it unnecessary for large firms using both hot and cold insulating materials, to keep stocks of two different products on hand for emergency.

"Therminsul" has as a protective covering, not canvas as is the case with magnesia or air cell, but paper—three layers of craft and two of parchment, altho within a month or so these paper coverings will be impregnated with asphalt. thus making the material waterproof and suitable for underground or outside work without any special treatment being necessary.

Paul Hammerich

Inspector of Asbestos, Crude and Fibre. Reports on Asbestos Mines and Mills.

THETFORD MINES - QUEBEC, CANADA

Imports and Exports of Asbestos

Imports into U. S. A.

Unmanufactured Asbestos—

From	March 1923 Tons	March 1923 Value	March 1924 Tons	March 1924 Value
England	271	$ 50,099	61	$ 21,249
Canada	12,315	580,294	16,599	635,469
China	6	334	...	.....
Port E. Africa	30	12,500	...	.....
Other Port Africa	...	...	45	17,500
	12,622	$645,072	16,705	$674,218

Manufactured Asbestos Goods.

	March 1924 lbs.	March 1924 Value
Yarn		
England	156	$ 140.00
Fabrics, Woven		
England	6,739	3,700.00
Shingles, Slate, Wood or Lumber		
Belgium	85,948	1,370.00
Canada	8,775	809.00
Germany	143,900	8,015.00
Italy	24,010	664.00
Total	262,633	$10,858.00
Asbestos Cement		
Canada	530	27.00
Other Manufactures		
Belgium	2,350,428	33,551.00
France	26,428	605.00
England	6,369	4,591.00
Germany	2,088	315.00
Total	2,385,627	$39,062.00
Grand Total of all Manufactured Products—	2,655,685	$51,387.00

During March 1923, imports of manufactured asbestos goods totalled 862,460 pounds, valued at $19,025.

Exports from U. S. A.

Exports of unmanufactured asbestos for the month of March 1924, amounted to 10 tons, valued at $2,607.00, compared with March 1923, figures for which were 6 tons, valued at $680.00.

Exports of manufactured asbestos goods:

	March 1923 lbs.	March 1923 Value	March 1924 lbs.	March 1924 Value
Paper, mlbd. & rlbd.	124,261	$11,591	275,073	$13,260
Pipe Covg. & Cement	444,439	39,447	585,642	29,167

Asbestos Corporation
of Canada, Limited

The Largest Producers of Raw Asbestos in the World

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PAPER STOCKS

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B. C. Mines, Black Lake, "
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Head Office

Canada Cement Building
Phillips Square - Montreal

General Office

THETFORD MINES
Quebec, Canada

Textiles, Yarn & Pkg. ..	72,814	48,693	115,593	65,478
Magnesia & Mfgrs. of ..	547,565	31,951	342,628	25,104
Asbestos Roofing	3,748sqs.	14,646	7,938sqs.	27,491
Other Manufactures	186,565	66,076	319,511	70,287

Exports from Canada (Raw Asbestos).

	February 1923		February 1924	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
To United Kingdom	160	$ 6,000	341	$ 19,290
United States	3,962	291,190	6,695	376,090
Australia	...	....	40	1,950
Austria	...	....	...	...
Belgium	365	34,500	494	30,165
France	245	16,807	492	47.090
Germany	288	40,053	366	66,700
Italy	...	....	88	9,048
Japan	180	10,450	375	15,720
Netherlands	20	1,000	22	2,000
Spain	...	....	...	...
Switzerland	...	....	...	...
Other Countries	55	4,125	...	...
	5,275	$404,125	8,913	$568,053
Sand and Waste—				
United Kingdom	45	535	130	2,200
United States	2,582	28,125	5,009	65,563
Other Countries	70	1,245	21	216
Grand Total	7,972	$434,030	14,073	$636,032

Imports by England.

Imports of raw material for March 1924, compared with those for March 1923:—

	March 1923		March 1924	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
From Rhodesia	1,476	£38,202	306	£10,107
From Canada	99	2,191	668	9,361
Other Countries	40	1,397	806	17,567
	1,615	£41,790	1,780	£37,035
Re-exports	899	33,054	609	20,740

Exports by England.

	March 1923		March 1924	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
To Netherlands	20	£ 2,533	59	£ 5,221
To France	36	10,819	36	13,267
To United States	1	650	9	1,439
To British India	221	8,904	125	6,626
To Other Countries	583	44,312	913	50,055
	861	£67,218	1,142	£76,608

Exports Raw Material from Australia (1923).

To British Empire	65 long tons
To Other Countries	2 long tons
Total	67 long tons

ASBESTOS PAPER AND MILLBOARD

SAL MOUNTAIN COMPANY
SAL-MO PRODUCTS

The Mark to Buy Asbestos By

Made to Fit All Standard Pipe Sizes

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for
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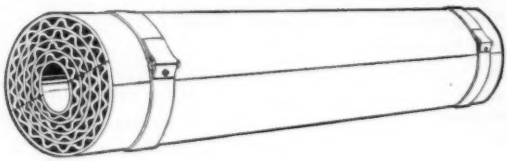
and HOT WATER PIPES



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ASBESTOS PIPE & BOILER COVERING

Production Statistics

Rhodesia.

Production of Rhodesia during February 1924, as given by the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines, was as follows:

	Tons	Value
Bulawayo District.		
Birthday (Willoughby's Con. Co., Ltd.) Undeclared for March 1922-Nov. 1922	199	£ 3,987
Nil Desperandum (Afr. Asb. Min. Co. Ltd.)	258	4,986
Pangani (J. S. Hancock)	15	180
Shabanie (Rho. & Gen. Asb. Corp., Ltd.)	842	21,047
Victoria District.		
Balmain (Afr. Asb. Min. Co., Ltd.)	55	1,095
Gath's (R. & Gen. Asb. Corp., Ltd.)	316	7,905
King (Rho. King Asb. Co., Ltd.)	184	3,682
	1869	£42,882

Tasmania.

In reports of the mineral production for Tasmania during 1923, no asbestos is included, which makes us conclude that no asbestos was produced in Tasmania during the year, else the quantity was so small as to be negligible.

Union of South Africa.

Shipments and sales from the Union of South Africa during February 1924, were:

Transvaal	266	£5,526
Cape	218	2,619
	484	£8,145

For the corresponding month last year, the value of shipments was £10,023, consisting of 794 tons.

"ASBESTOS" has just installed a larger cabinet in which to display its specimens of asbestos and asbestos products. We think this very attractive, and are more eager than ever to have samples of crude asbestos from out of the way places, and of peculiar characteristics. Any samples sent will be displayed prominently and full credit given to the sender.

We hope our many friends in the industry will drop in and look over this exhibit when next in Philadelphia.

FOR SALE—Up-to-date boiler covering cement mixer. Capacity, one car per day. For information write Box No. 6A-2, "ASBESTOS."

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

Birthdays. Our birthday list this month contains the names of the following prominent Asbestos men: Stoughton Bell, President of Multibestos Company, whose birthday occurs on June 28th, C. B. Jenkins, of the General Asbestos and Rubber Company, whose birthday occurs on July 3rd; R. P. Doucet, General Manager, Asbestos Corporation of Canada, birthday date July 7th. To all these gentlemen we extend hearty greetings.

Asbestex Corporation. The address of the Asbestex Corporation was omitted from the May number. It is 964 Chili Avenue, Rochester, N. Y.

The West Coast Asbestos Company has changed its name to the Emsco Asbestos Company, address being Dolland and Iowa Streets, Downey Calif.

Johns-Manville, Inc. Report of this company for the calendar year of 1923, is given by the Commercial Chronicle as follows: Profit of $3,508,928, which after deduction of income tax reserves of $430,000, leaves a balance of $3,078,928.

BALANCE SHEET DEC. 31, 1923.

ASSETS

Real estate, plant, etc.	x$8,757,517
Cash	1,148,456
U. S. Government bonds	1,394
Accounts receivable	4,486,910
Notes receivable	255,960
Inventories	4,654,219
Dividend-paying securities	2,843,472
Due from subsidiary cos.	1,556,238
Total	$23,704,211

x After deduction of $3,350,874 reserves.

LIABILITIES

Capital stock (no par value)	$12,460,450
Trade creditors	609,376
Miscellaneous accounts payable	25,870
Wages and commission accrued	321,481
Fgt., royalty and exp. accrued	185,867
Dividend reserve	186,906
Income tax 1923	430,000
Surplus	9,484,258
Total	$23,704,211

The Asbestos Covering & Textile Company on May 31st, moved to 294-96 Franklin Street, corner of Broad Street. They were formerly located at 66 Batterymarch Street, Boston Mass.

The Lotz Asbestos Company has accepted the resignation of C. A. Jordan, Jr., as manager for their Boston office and also Vice President and Director of the company and he is no longer connected with that concern. E. H. Davis is at the present time in charge of their Boston office.

ASBESTOS

F. C. Harbott, 35 Camomile St., London, E. C. 3, has registered the trade mark "Enasco" for Asbestos Brake lining and packings (steam and hydraulic) which he manufactures. Mr. Harbott also trades under the name of the Engineers Supply Association.

Charles E. Wehr, of Charles E. Wehr Company, dropped in on us for a chat during the past month. Mr. Wehr has been identified with the Asbestos Industry for many years, having first been connected with Johns-Manville, Inc., for a long time, and afterwards in business for himself, representing the Ehret Magnesia Mfg. Company in the sale of their products, and selling all lines of asbestos materials.

The Braiding & Packing Works of America, in addition to its Asbestos, Cotton Flax and Jute Packings is now manufacturing low pressure spiral packings, "Brapaco" brand. This packing is made of a special grade of rubber and duck, is thoroly lubricated in extra high quality compound. It is made in all sizes and will be put up under private brand names. The Braiding & Packing Works of America is located at 250-52 46th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Silver Edge, Vol. 4, No. 8, published by the Raybestos Company as a house organ to their trade, has just reached our desk. As usual it contains much of interest to the garageman and brake lining distributor.

Herman Heinsius. The May 22nd Chicago Tribune contains an account of the conviction of Herman Heinsius for operating a confidence game. It was declared that Heinsius had sold stocks in worthless asbestos companies operating thru the Illinois Bond & Mortgage Company, of which Heinsius was the head. His co-defendant, A. E. Minium, President of the asbestos companies mentioned, jumped his bond and is believed to have gone to Mexico.

Hall & Nielsen, Ltd., is the name of a private company recently formed with a capital of £1,500, to carry on the business of asbestos brake lining, clutch facing, belting and hose manufacturers, dealers in asbestos, hair, wool, cotton, hemp, jute, flax and other fibrous materials. The first directors are R. B. Hall, of "Thornleigh", Roachdale Old Road, Jericho Bury; N. C. Nielsen, 18 Castle Hill Road, Jericho Bury; and B. C. Hall, "Thornleigh", Roachdale Old Road, Jericho Bury. The secretary is B. C. Hall, and registered office is at Beaver Mills, Garden St., Bury, England.—India Rubber Journal.

Minimum Carload weight of Asbestos Paper, has been raised from 36,000 to 40,000 pounds, effective June 1st.

South African Dumping Duties.. The South African Government, as a result of representations made, has established a basis of calculation which enables the "Italit" corrugated sheets to enter the Union without the dumping duty to which so much objection was made, but the flat sheets remain burdened. The same is true of the Belgian manufactures. We quote from proclamation issued by the South African Government: "From and

Nederlandsche Asbest My.

Importers of Asbestos
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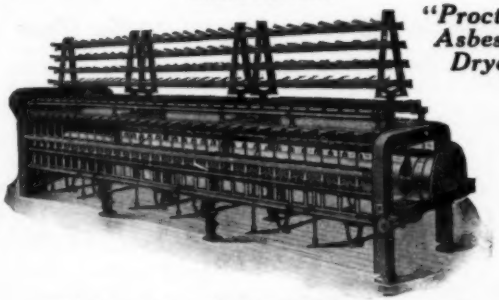
"Smith-Furbush"

"Proctor" Asbestos Dryers



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LOWEST COST

CYPRUS ASBESTOS COMPANY
LIMITED

Sales Office
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after the date and publication hereof in the Gazette, the provisions of the aforesaid proclamation shall not apply to Belgian or Italian asbestos cement sheets when the C. I. F. price thereof to the importer in the Union is not less than one shilling and sixpence per square yard, such price, when quoted (in part or in full) in Belgian francs or Italian lire to be computed at the rate of exchange current at the date of shipment."

Homer L. Harpin, who has been connected with Johns-Manville Inc., for the past fifteen years, recently resigned and is now located in the Little Building, Boston Mass., planning to represent in the New England territory, manufacturers of various asbestos materials. Mr. Harpin will be glad to receive sales propositions from manufacturers desiring New England representation.

Ernest C. Benson. The slogans appearing on the Contractors and Distributors Page each month have been supplied by Ernest C. Benson, a dealer in asbestos materials in Providence, R. I.

The Asbestos Brake Lining Association is distributing among its members over 130,000 copies of its new Standard Data Book, containing the latest specifications for brake linings and clutch facings.

The publication of this book by the Association not only means that its members effect a very large saving owing to the reduced cost of such a large edition, but that the data is more accurate and more nearly complete, than that formerly published.

The University of Illinois, Engineering Experiment Station, at Urbana, Ill., has just issued its fourth bulletin on Warm-air Furnace Research. This research work is carried on in behalf of the National Warm-air Heating and Ventilating Association.

Manufacturers and sellers of Air Cell and other insulating materials will be interested in Chapter 12, "Heat Emission from the Heating Surfaces for Three Types of Furnaces," Chapter 14, "Insulation and Heat Loss of Furnace," Chapter 15, "Insulation and Heat Loss from Leaders," and Chapter 16, "Insulation and Heat Loss of Wall Stacks."

A copy of this Bulletin can be obtained from the Engineering Experiment Station at a price of 85c, or we will be glad to lend our copy to those interested.

P. H. Jamieson, dealer in pipe and boiler coverings and mill supplies, Montreal, has organized the Jamieson Asbestos Company, for the same line of work, office and warehouse being located at 635 Notre Dame West, Montreal.

Cyprus Asbestos Company. According to newspaper reports, the operations of the Cyprus Asbestos Company for 1923, after making provision for depreciation, have resulted in a loss of £27,205, which after deducting a credit balance to profit and loss account of £7,019, leaves a debit balance of £20,186. The chief causes of this loss are the heavy declines in prices of asbestos fibres, the depression existing in the building trades, the delay in completion of one of the company's mills, and de-

lay in completion of proper transportation facilities. It is believed that the varions difficulties have been overcome, mills are working satisfactorily and the outlook for the present year is promising.

The Asbestos Cement Mfg. Company, of Wentworth, Australia, about a year ago replaced their Indian and colored labor by white. The manager of the company's mill reports that the results have justified the experiment, the white labor producing better quality and greater quantity than the colored and Indian.

W. Jesseman & Co., Newport, Monmouthshire, England, manufacturers and sellers of india rubber, asbestos, leather and packing, have recently adopted a new trade name for their steam and hydraulic high presure packings—"Palma".

The Belgian Patent situation is attracting the interest of the Industry. Eternit won its first suit against Asbestile for infringement of patents on Asbestos Cement Shingles previous to the War. Asbestile appealed this suit and a decision of the courts within the last month was in favor of Eternit. Asbestile has one last Court of appeal, the Court Cassation, but at time of going to press it is not known whether they will take the suit to that Court or not.

Sir Mortimer B. Davis, of Consolidated Asbestos Limited, arrives in America on June 15th, after his winter sojourn in France.

S. Weingarten, the father of the African blue asbestos industry has started on a business trip with the special objective of extending trade relations with Germany formerly the chief buyer of short blue fibre.

Mr. Haag of Becker & Haag, Berlin, Germany, has been spending some time in the Thetford Mines District.

N. R. Fisher, formerly Mines Manager of Consolidated Asbestos Limited, and Mrs. Fisher, recently sailed by the Coronia for England, to visit the Wembly Empire Exhibition. Mr. Fisher is also a delegate from the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy to the Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress which will meet in London during June.

Heller & Company, Limited, Johannesburg, South Africa, which company started in the blue asbestos business last year, are reported to be in liquidation.

Blue Asbestos. Reports from Kuruman state that several blue asbestos mines have recently re-opened owing to better selling prospects, the output from that district being at the present time about 100 tons per month, which, it is expected, will be doubled by July. Prieska is producing 160 to 180 tons per month, mainly from the Cape Asbestos Company's properties.

W. A. Godfrey, Manager and Secretary of the Cape Asbestos Company Limited, has recently returned to London from a business trip to France, Switzerland and Italy.

Asbestos Corporation of America, incorporated under the

laws of Massachusetts, makes the following report of its financial condition, as of December 31, 1923:

ASSETS

	1923	1922
Real Estate	$1,536,829	
Machinery and Equipment	594,242	$2,117,321
Mdse., mat. Stock in process	8,000	8,000
Cash	214	208
Treas. stock	...	37,600
Investments	827,600	350,000
Accts. Rec.	1,925	1,925
Suspense	20,000	...
Furniture, fixtures, etc.	195	358
Autos, etc.	8,707	8,707
Pfd. stock subscrip.	82,400	82,400
Misc. Accts. Rec.	32,632	32,262
1st mtg. bonds in Treas.	...	440,000
Total	$3,112,744	$3,078,781

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	$1,063,300	$1,063,300
Accts. and notes payable	899,878	801,413
Funded debt	500,000	500,000
Accepts payable	18,568	...
50,000 shares no par	50,000	50,000
Surplus	580,998	664,068
Total	$3,112,744	$3,078,781

James F. Collopy.

It is with great regret that we announce the death, on May 27th, of James F. Collopy, President of the Acme Asbestos Covering and Flooring Company of Chicago, Ill.

Asbestos Mines Limited. We note from current newspapers that Maloney, Allerton & Co. are offering a $1,000,000 issue of first refunding mortage five year 7 per cent collateral trust gold coupon bonds of the Asbestos Mines, Ltd., of the Province of Quebec. The bonds are priced at 99 to yield in excess of 7 per cent plus a 10 per cent common stock bonus.

This issue of "ASBESTOS" completes Volume V. Some of our subscribers may desire their copies bound. We can handle this work for you at a cost of $2.50 per volume, subscriber to furnish the copies, or at a cost of $5.00 if we furnish the copies.

BUYERS CLASSIFIED INDEX

Being a listing of those firms whose products are of particular interest to those in the Asbestos Industry.

Rate for listing supplied on application.

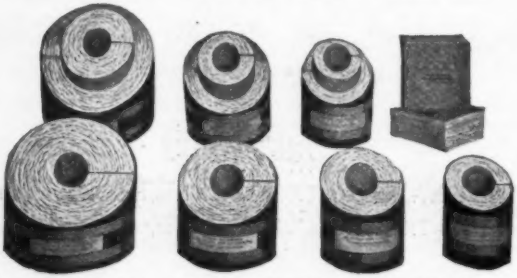
We hope to gradually make this listing of great value to our readers.

ASBESTOS TEXTILE MACHINES

WHITIN MACHINE WORKS, Whitinsville, Mass.

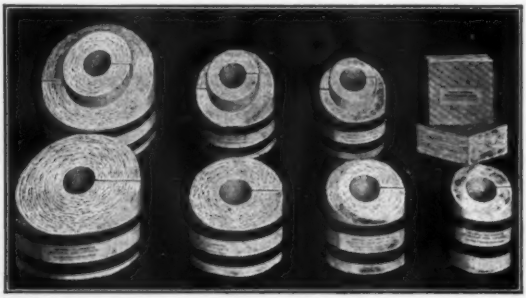
IMPERIAL ALL ASBESTOS COVERING

Wire Stitched with Water Proof Jacket for outside work



IMPERIAL ALL ASBESTOS COVERING

Wire Stitched—Canvass Jacket—Metal Banded
For High Pressure and Superheated Steam Lines



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Will not loosen nor crumble from vibration.

Can be removed and replaced without injury.

Will not Sag on Pipes. Strong and Flexible.

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STEAM PIPE AND BOILER INSULATION AND LOCOMOTIVE LAGGING

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That is Structurally Strong and Permanently Effective

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VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

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Carded or not—there is one grade of fibre which gives the best sheet for the lowest cost:

NODUST NO. 2

For low-priced sheet, another fibre, graded to test 0-8-8-0 is being used to great advantage:

NODUST "X"

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Consolidated Asbestos Limited

Canada Cement Building

Montreal, - Canada

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